

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 – 16, 18 – 28, and 30 – 37 are pending in the application.

Claims 23, 28, and 30 – 33 have been rejected.

Claims 24 – 27 are objected to.

Claim 23 – 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Appreciation is expressed for the indicated allowability of claims 1 – 9 , 11 – 16, 18 – 22 , and 34 – 37. Appreciation is also expressed for the indicated allowability of claims 24 – 27 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 24 – 27 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 9, 11 – 16, 18 – 22, 24 – 27, and 34 – 37 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23, 28, 30, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,758,002, Walters. Applicants have amended claim 23 to include the limitations of allowable claims 24 – 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 23 is allowable over Walters. Claims 28, 30, 31, and 33 depend from claim 23 and are allowable for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited.

Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5080.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 29, 2003.



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4/29/03

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The following is a "Marked Up" version showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the Specification and/or Claims of Serial No.

09/812,247:

In the Claims

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23. (Twice Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the means for supporting one or more cables includes a cable fastener means;
a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means, said means for releasably engaging including at least one of one or more mushroom-shaped stems, one or more pine-tree-shaped stems, one or more hooks, and one or more loops; and
a cable routing apparatus comprising a frame means for supporting one or more fiber cables configured to receive the cable fastener means.

24. (Amended) ~~The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:
a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the means for supporting one or more cables includes a cable fastener means;
a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means, the means for releasably engagement includes one or more mushroom-shaped stems;
and
a cable routing apparatus comprising a frame means for supporting one or more fiber cables configured to receive the cable fastener means.

25. (Amended) ~~The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:

a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the means for supporting one or more cables includes a cable fastener means;
a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means, the means for releasably engagement includes one or more pine-tree-shaped stems; and
a cable routing apparatus comprising a frame means for supporting one or more fiber cables configured to receive the cable fastener means.

26. (Amended) ~~The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:

a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the means for supporting one or more cables includes a cable fastener means;
a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means, the means for releasably engagement includes one or more hooks; and
a cable routing apparatus comprising a frame means for supporting one or more fiber cables configured to receive the cable fastener means.

27. (Amended) ~~The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:

a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the means for supporting one or more cables includes a cable fastener means;
a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means, the means for releasably engagement includes one or more loops; and
a cable routing apparatus comprising a frame means for supporting one or more fiber cables configured to receive the cable fastener means.